

OSD DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE PART II

Because of the time period covered by the development of the satellite reconnaissance program and the dynamic nature of this process, it is extremely important in assessing public knowledge of this effort that the following factors be kept in mind:

A. Factual official information, as indicated in Part I, has, in practically every case, been utilized by various press media as nuclei for highly speculative articles and stories. Some, among the more informed press, have been uncomfortably accurate at times in speculative assessment of the scope, capability and technical details of the satellite reconnaissance program. However, almost all speculative articles contain substantial errors, and the presence in such articles of some correct but unconfirmed speculation does not justify such aspects being considered in the public domain. With the tightening of security and application of rigid need-to-know procedures approximately one year ago, a decided tendency to repeat old and obsolescent information has become apparent in the more recent press articles, and the relative amount of accurate speculation has decreased.

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B. The factor of obsolescence is highly significant. In many cases, program alterations have occurred due to changes in the technical approach or to the evolutionary nature of the developmental process, so that some information which was factual when released is no longer valid.

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